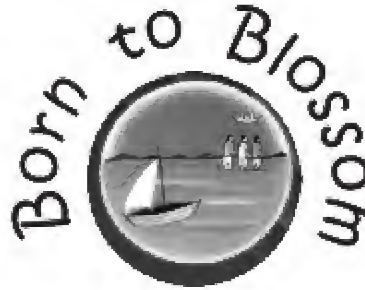

JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM

LABDHI BAAL VAARTA

Series

Part - 12



[NOT FOR SALE]

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Godi Parshwa Tirthoddharak

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PUBLISHERS NOTE

"LABDHI BAAL VAARTA" are wonderful short stories collected from various sources which were in different languages. We are grateful to all those authors. Specially YashovarmSurjee, *Muni* ChandraSurjee and Shailesh Sagparia. Our appreciation to Poojya Acharya Sri RajYashSooreeshwarjee M.S. and his disciple Upadhyaya VishrutyashVijayaji Gani (Prof. M.S.), Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd. for assisting in compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

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FOREWORD

DOES RE-BIRTH EXIST ?

Now-a-days children want to know everything with logic. If we tell them anything to do, they will ask, why ? So, if we give them hundreds of examples which happened with law of cause and effects like why Sita kidnapped by Ravan ? Why Draupadi married five husbands ? They will understand the matter and will do accordingly. So to bring them on the right path it is the easiest way. What one gives that only one receives. This is the Law of Nature. The western authors also like Arther C. Klarke and Dr. Brian Weiss have given many examples which prove the existence of soul. Here lots of examples are given of many historical characters by refering to the scriptures. (in Part 4). So if one wants to achieve good he will surely do good in this birth. I hope this book will surely make one walk on the right path i.e. right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which is the way to salvation.

Dr. M. M. Begani, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
12th July 2019



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THE AUTHOR

Acharyadev Shri. RajyashSooreeshwarjee *Maharaj*, exponent of discourses, visionary and promoter of renovation of various temples, the epitome of renunciation and great preacher is blessed by Shri. LabdhiSooreeshwarjee *M.S.* & Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee *M.S.*, his Grand *Guruji* & *Guruji* respectively. Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee, his *Gurudev* was very effective in attracting people towards the virtues of Jainism. He was a worshipper of 'BHAKTAMAR MAHASTOTRA', the practitioner of high standards of sadhana, and was a very simpleminded soul.

The author, Shri RajyashSooreeshwarjee, a highly dedicated, courteous disciple of his *Guru* and lucky enough to serve, care, worship incessantly to such a great Guru. Being a great personality, his bright and exalted oratory attracts people at the very first instance. Infact, a few seconds in his auspicious company, confers profound happiness and satisfaction. He is deeply involved in various rites, rituals, disciplines & yet very compassionate towards everyone. He has a heart, very simple like a child and delicate like a flower.

He has suggested many new ways for the propagation of Jainism. It is the outcome of his magnetic personality, that the renovation of temples at Bharuch, Kulpak, Uvasaggaharam, Banaras (Birth Kalyanak Place of Lord Parshwanath), Godi Parshwa-Padmavati at Prerna Teerth, Ahmedabad, Simandhar

Swami and Jagvallabh Parshwanath at Vadachowta, Surat and Vanachara near Baroda. Also new teerth at Navkar Dham, Palitana and Sankheshwara Parshwanath at Richmond, U.S.A. are being established under his guidelines were made possible. He organised JAINFAIR at Chennai, in 1999 which was an epoch making event.

Thus In Part 1 to 6 [264 stories] & in Part 7-8-9 [185] stories were given now in Part 10-11-12 [163 Stories] are being published.

Note : for details, refer book "5 Glorious Acharyas".

- Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijaya Gani

Dt. 30.7.2019 Ahmedabad

✽

Labdhi Baal Vaarta series of books is a fantastic collection of short stories with morals, written in an interesting way. These stories have helped me understand things from a very different perspective. I have started trying to implement some of the good virtues in my life as well. I have given some books to a few of my friends and they too liked these stories. I would love to read many more books like these. Please keep writing such books and inspiring us.

Samyak Mardia

Student, Class 10

Ahmedabad - 14th August, 2019

✽



1

Give Us The Innocence Of The Pigeons

Some devotees undertook the renovation work of an old Hindu Temple. The pigeons, who had been living in that Temple since many years, became anxious that where they would stay now. The pigeons of a neighbouring mosque came to know about their problem and invited them to come and stay in the mosque. The news spread and the pigeons of the Church, the Gurudwara and the Derasar in that area also sent an invitation and the pigeons of the Hindu Temple stayed with all of them one after the other. When the renovation work was completed, they returned to their original home.

One day, a young pigeon asked his grandfather, "Over the past few months I have observed that the people who come to the Temple are called Hindus, those who come to the mosque

are called Muslims, those who come to the Church are Christians, those who come to the Gurudwara are Sikhs and the ones to come to Derasar are called Jains. Why is it so?"

His grandfather explained, "They are called by different names because they follow different religions."

The young pigeon was not satisfied and so he asked another question, "But Grandfather, we are called pigeons when we are in a Temple and even in a Mosque. Just like all the pigeons look the same, the humans also look the same, then why are they recognised as Hindus or Muslims and not as humans?"

His grandfather answered lovingly, "Child, we are brainless birds and humans are very intelligent. So, they have used their intelligence to create these differences."

Moral :- We must remain innocent like the pigeons.





2

We Can be each- others God

Upon receiving orders, a Major of the Indian army and his team of 15 soldiers set off for duty on the Himalayan border. It was a difficult journey. The soldiers wished to drink tea to refresh themselves but it was silly to expect to get tea in such a remote and hilly terrain. To their utter delight, they spotted from afar what seemed to be a tea shop.

When they reached the shop, they felt disappointed to find it locked. A soldier suggested that they should break the lock and make tea for themselves. The Major was not in favour of doing anything immoral. Nevertheless, he could not refuse because his team was tired, cold and hungry.

Fortunately, the shop had the necessary ingredients for tea and also biscuits for snack. At the time of leaving, the Major put one thousand rupees on the counter.

Three months passed. The team's Himalayan duty was fulfilled and it was returning. On the way, it stopped for tea at the same shop. This time there was an old man there with whom the soldiers started chatting. The old man talked about the miraculous powers of God. One soldier was of the opinion that there was no God, otherwise the old man would not have to suffer hardships in his old age.

The old man then shared his own experience to convince them. He narrated, "Three months ago, my son got injured in an accident and I had to close my shop and rush to the hospital. I had no money for his medicines. I prayed to God to show me the way. When I came back to my shop, I was horrified to see its lock broken. Inside, I found one thousand rupees on the counter. I thanked God profusely for helping me. Sir, you tell me who else but God could have kept the money here?"

The Major conveyed with his eyes to his soldiers to keep quiet. When it was time to bid farewell, the Major embraced the old man and said, "Grandfather, you are absolutely right. There is God and he does help us in our time of need."

Moral :- Help can come from unexpected quarters.

3

God's Will Is Better Than Our Will

Once a woman went with her small son to the grocery store. The boy smiled sweetly at the grocer who was charmed by his innocence. The grocer felt his entire day's tiredness seeping out of his body.

The grocer opened a jar of chocolates and offered the child to take as many chocolates as he wanted. The child refused. The grocer kept insisting but the child kept refusing. Finally, the grocer removed a fistful of chocolates from the jar and the boy accepted them with thanks.

On their way home, the mother asked her son why he had refused to take the chocolates from the jar by himself. The child explained that his hands were small so he would have been able to take fewer chocolates than the grocer gave him.

Moral :- God's hands are bigger than ours. He can give us much more than we can imagine and wish for. Let God's will prevail.





4

Do You Want God To Come Into Your Heart ?

A government officer had amassed a lot of wealth by accepting bribes. During the day, the officer would be involved in corrupt activities and in the evening, he would become God's devotee. He would also donate large sums of money. His young son did not approve of his dual personality.

One day, his son took him to a restaurant. A waiter ushered them to a table but they could not sit there because the chairs were very dirty. The officer complained to the waiter who led them to another table. They were unable to sit there also because this time the table was dirty. They changed their place again.

By this time, the officer had lost the mood to eat but he kept quiet for his son's sake. After they

had settled, the waiter brought them glasses of water. The water was very dirty and stinky.

The officer lost his tolerance. He asked his son angrily why he had brought him to such a dirty and unhygienic place where it was impossible to stand even for a moment.

The son replied, "Forgive me, Father but you do such immoral deeds and pollute your heart and in the evening you pray to God to come into your heart. How can you invite God to such a dirty place ?" Remove anger from your heart for God to reside in it.

Moral :- If we insist upon cleanliness around us, then we must also keep cleanliness within us.



5

Virtuous Company Nourishes Your Mind

A man was a
member of a spiritual

group and used to attend its meetings daily. He would listen with single-minded attention to all the discussions. His friend did not approve of this activity, considering it to be a waste of time. He often expressed his disapproval.

One day the man's friend asked him, "As far as I know, you must have attended more than 3000 meetings over the last ten years. How much do you remember of all that you have heard at those meetings?" The man promptly replied, "None." Upon hearing this, the friend laughed and asked, "If you do not remember, then what were you doing all these years at those meetings?"

The man responded, "My friend, before I answer your question, I want to ask you a question. How long have you been married?" The friend answered, "Ten years."

The man asked him another question, "Do you remember all the dishes that your wife has cooked for you over the last ten years?" The friend said, "You are crazy. How can anyone possibly remember such a thing? One eats to nourish one's body. It

does not matter if one does not remember what one has eaten?"

The man said, "Just like the food nourishes your body, the spiritual discussions nourish my mind and make it strong. So, it does not matter if I do not remember the discussions."

Moral :- It is necessary to eat daily to keep your body healthy. Similarly, it is necessary to keep yourself in good company and exchange good thoughts to keep your mind healthy.



6

Karma

A 75-year-old man was feeling severe chest pain and consulted the most renowned cardiologist of the city. He was wealthy so he was not worried about the cost.

After several tests the doctor diagnosed that the old man's certain arteries were blocked and a by-pass surgery must be done as soon as possible. The family gave its consent and the surgery was done the very next day.

The old man's recovery was good and after a week the doctor gave his discharge order. The old man asked his son to show him the hospital bill. After seeing the bill, the man got lost in thought for some time and then suddenly burst into tears.

His family and the doctor were taken aback. The doctor said that he had given an estimate of the cost and had done the surgery only after the family had agreed. Then also, if the amount worried the old man, the doctor said he would talk to the hospital management and get 5% discount for them.

The old man said tearfully, "My son can afford to pay the bill. I am crying at the thought that for 75 years my heart was in good working condition and I had not paid a bill of even a single rupee." This was probably due to my good karma and now I

had got an attack due to some of my bad karma. Again I have a caring son due to my good karma.

Moral :- We will get rewarded for our good karma and have to bear the repercussions of our bad karma.



7

The Benefits Of Meditation

A man used to meditate daily for one hour in the morning and then start his work. While he meditated, his wife would be in deep slumber.

One day his wife asked, "What do you gain from meditation?" He replied curtly, "Nothing." His wife advised, "Then why trouble yourself? Why don't you enjoy some more sleep like me?" The man responded, "You are absolutely right. Instead

of gaining, I am losing something or the other every day." His wife was taken aback by what he said. She was curious to know why he was continuing to meditate in spite of the loss.

The man replied with a smile, "My loss is giving me happiness. Day by day, my arrogance is diminishing, my selfishness is disappearing, my anger is decreasing, my jealousy and envy are lessening and I am also rid of the fear of death."

Moral :- A loss which brings happiness and peace is worthwhile.



8

Hard Work Is Mightier Than Fate

A small village boy went to a palmist one day and asked him to predict how much he would study. The palmist studied his palm carefully

and said, "Son, forgive me for saying so, but there is no knowledge line in your palm. I think you are not destined to get higher education."

The boy found out from the palmist where the line of knowledge is located in the palm. He went home and made a long cut with a knife on that spot in his palm. He went to the palmist again with blood dripping from his palm and said, "Look this is my line of knowledge and now I will see which power in this world is able to prevent me from getting knowledge." At that time, his face shone with the determination of defeating Fate. He fulfilled his words and became the renowned Sanskrit scholar *Pandit Panini*.

Moral :- There is no short cut to success. Hard work is the key to success.



9

Two Choices

What would you do? Would you have made the same choice?



At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, couldn't learn things as other children do. He couldn't understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued, "I believe that when a child like Shay, who is mentally and physically disabled,

comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story:

Shay and I were walking past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team but as a father I also understood that if my son was allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched

with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three runs. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob

the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first !"

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran

towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home. All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay."

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third! Shay, run to third."

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, "Shay, run home! Run home!"

Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly, with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

AND NOW A LITTLE FOOT NOTE TO THIS STORY : We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the 'natural order of things.' So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

A wise man once said, "Every society is judged by how it treats its least fortunate amongst them."

10

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves



A young man had gone with his friends for an outing in the forest. Somehow he got separated from his friends. He started wandering in search of a way to get out of the forest.

Suddenly it started raining. The drizzle soon turned into a heavy downpour. He came to a river which was flooded. There was a bridge made of bamboo and ropes over the river. He started walking on the bridge. It was a very difficult and dangerous situation. The bridge was old and weak. Moreover, a storm had started. The bridge was swaying due to the strong winds. He took every step carefully and slowly, otherwise he would topple over and fall into the river.

He prayed to God for help. Someone appeared on the opposite bank to his relief. He stopped moving

ahead, waiting for that person to come to him. But he did not come. He pleaded but got no response. He muttered angrily and started moving ahead.

With great difficulty and effort, he managed to reach the opposite bank. The sight that his eyes saw brought tears to his eyes. The other end of the bridge was broken and that person was holding it tightly with his powerful hands. The young man understood that God had helped him in a big way in the form of that person.

Moral :- We should not become passive and helpless in difficult situations. We must help ourselves because God is always there to help us and support us.



11

Prayer Or Hard Work?

A debate was going on in a college



classroom. The Professor had given the debate topic to his students 'What is the key to success - Prayer or Hard Work ?'

The students were participating with great interest and enthusiasm. They were divided into two teams. One team believed that there is unimaginable power in prayer and with prayer one can achieve whatever one wants. The other team believed prayer to be a waste of time and hard work is the only key to success. Both teams were making strong arguments and it was difficult to reach to a conclusion.

A student said to the Professor, "Sir, on the basis of your knowledge and experience, you can tell us the right answer."

The Professor asked his students whether any of them had a bank locker and two or three students raised their hand in affirmation. He then asked one of them if he had ever used the locker. The student replied that he had used it many times because he always accompanied his mother to the bank as she used his locker to keep her jewellery.

Next, the Professor asked how many keys were used to open the locker. The student replied that both his own key and the bank key were needed to do so.

The Professor explained that similarly both prayer and hard work are keys to success and one needs to use them simultaneously to achieve success.

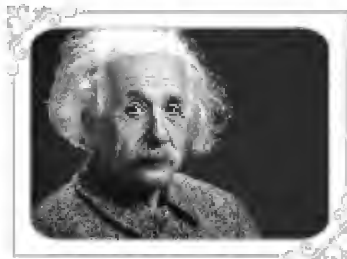
Moral :- Prayers along with hard work will not only lead you to success but also keep you humble.



12

Work Is Worship

Albert Einstein was working in his laboratory since early morning. He did not come out even for lunch. When he did not come out even in the evening, his caring assistant went inside the



laboratory and asked him if he would like to eat something. Einstein refused. The assistant put a cup of coffee on his work table and told him to drink it since he had eaten nothing the entire day.

After some time, the assistant came to collect the empty cup. He saw it lying untouched so he scolded Einstein who scratched his head and commented that if he had not drunk coffee then what it was. The assistant noticed his black lips and understood at once. He laughed and said that Einstein had picked up the inkpot lying beside the coffee cup and drunk the ink. This was the degree of Einstein's involvement in his work.

The great scientist Thomas Elva Edison had once said, "The secret of my success is that I never keep a clock in my work room."

Moral :- If you want success, then get so involved in your work that you forget everything else.



13

My Mother



This is a truly
BEAUTIFUL piece

please read this at a slow pace, digesting every
word at leisure...do not hurry.... this is a treasure...

For those lucky to still be blessed with your
Mom, this is beautiful. For those of us who aren't,
this is even more beautiful. For those who are
moms, you'll love this.

The young Mother set her foot on the path of
life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.

The Guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And
you will be old before you reach the end of it. But
the end will be better than the beginning." But the
young Mother was happy, and she would not
believe that anything could be better than these
years.

So, she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and nothing can harm us."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have made it without you."

The Mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I've given them strength."

The next day came strange clouds, which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light."

And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.

Mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. Now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

They stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot see her but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."

Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallised in every teardrop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate you all. Not time, not space... not even death!

MAY WE NEVER TAKE OUR MOTHERS FOR GRANTED NO MATTER WHAT...



14

Ordinary Work Can Also Become Divine

The manager of a reputed bank of a metropolitan city noticed that the clients would queue up at one particular cash counter only. They would not go to the other one even if there was no queue in front of it. Both the cashiers behaved mannerfully with the clients so the manager could not think of any reason why clients were not going to the other counter.

The manager asked the clients the reason for their preference for the particular counter and they all gave the same answer that they had experienced that when they used the cash received from that counter, they would always make a big profit on that day.



The manager then questioned the cashier as well and he replied, "I am doing my duty just like the other cashier but with only one small difference. Whenever I hand over the cash to the clients, I quickly pray for their welfare and success. It does not cost me either money or time. In fact, I return home every evening feeling contented that I have done something for someone."

Moral :- While doing your duty throughout the day, pray for the welfare of whoever you meet.



15

Self-Audit Your Work

A young man was inside a public telephone booth. He dialled a number and when the call was received on the other side he said, "Hello



Madam! Mrs. Sharma has given me your number. I have heard that you need an attendant for your children." The lady replied, "No, I do not need an attendant." The young man asked, "Then who looks after your children? You are so busy in your business work." The lady said, "You do not need to worry about that because I have hired a young man who is doing his job very well."

The young man persisted, "But Madam, I am in dire need of a job and I am ready to take lesser salary than what you are paying to the current attendant."

The lady tried to explain, "Why don't you understand? The current attendant is doing his job very well. He is not a servant but like a member of my family and I trust him completely."

"But Madam, I will work equally well. You may ask Mrs. Sharma about me."

The lady got irritated, "I don't want to ask anyone and I don't want to employ anybody else. Please do not call me again." She disconnected the call. Surprisingly, instead of feeling disappointed,

the young man was feeling extremely happy. This is because he had called his own employer anonymously to find out if she was contented with his work.

Moral :- We audit other people's work many times but let us audit our own work and check the quality of our work.



16

Believer v/s Non-Believer



A believer and an atheist were best friends. The believer believed in the existence of God, accepted the omniscience of God and followed all the religious rites and rituals. The atheist was against all this.

The believer used to go to the temple daily, light oil lamps and close his eyes and pray. The atheist

would also go to the temple, not to pray but to extinguish the oil lamps lit by his friend.

One day, it was raining so heavily that the believer decided not to go to the temple, thinking that he would take the trouble of travelling to the temple in the rain and his atheist friend would come and extinguish the oil lamps lit by him and prayers could be done at home also. Meanwhile, the atheist had reached the temple and waited for a long time for his friend. Ultimately, he lit the lamps on behalf of his friend and then extinguished them.

At that very moment, God appeared and blessed the atheist who was taken aback that God had appeared before him instead of his friend who was devoted to God. He said so to God.

God laughingly said, "You may be an atheist but I like your devotion to your work. My so-called devotee did not come to me because of the rain but you reached here according to your daily routine to extinguish the lamps."

Moral :- God likes us to be sincere and devoted to our work.



17

Mind Your Own Business



A man had bought a donkey for transportation of goods and a dog for guarding his house. One night, the master and his two animals were fast asleep. Suddenly, both the animals were awakened by a noise. The dog got up at once, looked around, sat down again and closed his eyes.

The dog's behaviour angered the donkey. He woke up the dog and said, "Why did you go back to sleep? A thief might have sneaked into the house so it is your duty to bark and wake up our master. You are not doing your duty."

The dog replied, "It is my duty to guard the house and I know very well what I should do. So please mind your own business."

The donkey did not like his reply. He thought that he should wake up their master. So, he started braying loudly. The master had fallen asleep out of utter exhaustion. So, he was angry with the donkey for disturbing his sleep. He beat the donkey black and blue with a stout stick. The donkey was moaning in pain. The dog told him, "I told you to mind your own business but you did not listen. Now bear its consequences."

Moral :- Everyone has a special task assigned to them which is suitable only for them. So, one must not interfere in other people's work.



18

Good Deeds Are Always Rewarded

A man had
invited his spiritual

Guru to his house. He gave a grand welcome to his



Guru. He invited many people to benefit from his *Guru's* spiritual company and guidance.

Guruji said in his discourse, "God has sent us on this Earth as human beings so we must make our life worthwhile by doing good deeds."

One listener interrupted the discourse and asked, "*Guruji*, I do not think this is true. I have been selflessly helping a person since a long time but that person has never helped me. In fact, he has never even thanked me."

Guruji said, "When we give to someone, we always get it back but we all make the mistake of expecting to get from the very person to whom we have given."

Before *Guruji* could say anything further, the daughter of the listener, who had asked the question, came running and said, "Papa, I have stood first in my University and I have got a scholarship of one lakh rupees for further studies."

Moral :- Good deeds which are done selflessly are rewarded in one way or the other. Do your deeds without worrying about the reward.

19

A Gem Of An Employee



A man named Isub Yunus Kureshi worked as a peon in a government office. He was a true Muslim. In spite of being on such an ordinary post, his dutifulness was an inspiration for all.

Besides his work as a peon, he was also, the caretaker of a big students' hostel of 54 rooms. He would change the linen of every room daily and send it to the laundry. And he would put in extra hours after duty to do all this work. Even on holidays, Kureshi would come atleast once to the office because he had willingly taken the responsibility of feeding the fishes in the aquarium kept in the office.

The duty of Kureshi's boss ended at 5:10 p.m. but he would sit till 7 p.m. to give guidance to

students. His boss would sometimes stay in the office up to even 8 p.m. Kureshi would not leave the office till then inspite of his boss telling him to do so. Although his boss would refuse, he would lovingly give water to the visitors.

Kureshi was very considerate towards the students and other visitors. If his boss had to go out, then he would ask his boss when he would return and what he should say if anyone came to meet him in his absence. He would go to the extent of giving his own cell phone number and tell the people who wanted to meet his boss to call up and inquire before coming whether his boss was there in the office or not.

During Islamic festivals, he would try to help the needy as much as he could out of his limited income. During the month of Ramzan, he would bring cold beverages from his house for everyone.

After the Diwali festival, Kureshi's boss had distributed calendars among all the office employees except Kureshi because the calender had photographs of a Hindu God and a Hindu saint

and his boss knew that idol worship was banned in Islam. Kureshi approached his boss and asked for the calender. His boss clarified the reason for not giving Kureshi the calender. Kureshi said, "Sir, I will see the glimpse of Allah in your God and saint."

Unfortunately, Kureshi died in an accident. However, he has left behind the fragrance of his good deeds and he lives on in the memory of the people who knew him.

Moral :- To do noble deeds, you need a big heart and not a big post or status.



20

Forever Is A Myth

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away.

As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother and I don't have enough money."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose."

He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers.

As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother."

She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.

Moral :- Spend as much time as you can with your loved ones because they will not be there forever.





21

A Mother's Pain

In a city, devotees were flocking to listen to the reading of the religious scriptures. On the third day, at the end of the morning session, the devotees returned to their house for lunch. Only an old widow remained in the hall.

A volunteer asked her, "Do you not want to go home for lunch? The next session will start at 4pm." The old woman replied, "Son, I am fasting today." The volunteer wanted to know why she was observing a fast on that day and the woman replied, "I am fasting today because the date is 31st." Tears welled up in her eyes and she continued speaking, "I have two sons whom I gave good education. They have decided that I have to go for my meals to one son's house for 15 days

and then to the other son's house for the next 15 days of the month. But today is the 31st day of the month and it is nobody's turn to feed me. So, I fast on the last day of the month which has 31 days."

Moral :- This is really shameful. Let us take care of our parents who have sacrificed so much for us.



22

Mother, I Miss You Very Much

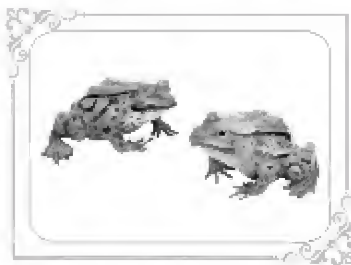
A fair had been organized in a city. People were flocking to the fair in large numbers. A small boy got separated from his parents. The parents searched everywhere. Several times announcements were made over the public address system but the child was nowhere to be found.

The boy's mother was crying profusely and saying, "Bring me my son. He is my life. I will not be able to live without him." By God's grace, a woman came upon the child who was also crying for his parents. She brought the child to his parents. The mother's joy knew no bounds when she got back her child and showered him with kisses.

The couple went home with their son. The husband started packing his bag. The wife asked where he was going. The husband answered with tears in his eyes, "I am going to my village. I saw how crazy you became when you were separated from your son for just one hour. I have been separated from my mother since 10 years. Can you imagine in what state she must be?"

Moral :- There are certain relations in our life which are invaluable. No other relationship or wealth can match up to them.





23

The Group of Frogs

A group of frogs were travelling through the forest when two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them.

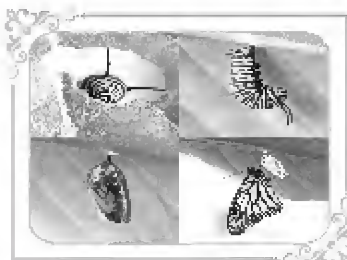
However, the two frogs ignored their comrades and proceeded to try to jump out of the pit. However, despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up as they'd never make it.

Eventually, one of the frogs took heed of what the others were saying and he gave up, jumping even deeper to his death. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the group of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and to just die.

He ignored them, and jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?"

They then found that this frog was deaf and he presumed that they were encouraging him the entire time.

Moral :- People's words can have a huge effect on the lives of others. Therefore, you should think about what you're going to say to someone – it might just be the difference between life and death.



24

The Butterfly

Once upon a time, a man found a butterfly that was starting to hatch from its cocoon. He sat down and watched the butterfly for hours as it struggled to force

itself through a tiny hole. Then, it suddenly stopped making progress and looked like it was stuck.

Therefore, the man decided to help the butterfly out. He took a pair of scissors and cut off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings.

The man thought nothing of it, and he sat there waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. However, that never happened. The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with small wings and a swollen body.

Despite the man's kind heart, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small hole were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings to prepare itself for flying once it was free.

Moral :- Our struggles in life help to develop our strengths. Without struggles, we never grow and get stronger, so it's important for us to tackle challenges on our own, and not rely on help from others all the time.



25

We Are Never Alone

Do you know the
legend of the
Cherokee Indian youth's rite?

His father takes him into the forest... blindfolded...and leaves him.... alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night...and not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night...he is a MAN.

He cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each boy must come into his own manhood.

The boy was terrified...could hear all kinds of noises...Beasts were all around him. Maybe even some human would hurt him. The wind blew the

grass and earth... and it shook his stump. But he sat stoically...never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could be a man.

Finally, after a horrific night...the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he saw his father...sitting on the stump next to him...at watch...the entire night.

Moral :- We are never truly alone. Even when we do not know it, our family and friends are watching out for us...sitting on a stump beside us.



26

True Love

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 am, when an elderly gentleman, in his 80s arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry and that he had an appointment at 9:00 am.

I took his vital signs, and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound.

On examining I saw it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redressed his wound. While taking care of him, we began to engage in conversation. I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for awhile and was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

As we talked and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, and hadn't recognized him in five years. I was surprised, and asked him, "And you still go every

morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?"

He smiled and patted my hand and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."

Moral :- Always be with your loved ones in both their happy time and difficult time.



27

Socrates And The Lazy Boy

This is a short motivational story of Socrates and his powerful teachings. He was a great Greek philosopher and one of the founders of Western Philosophy.

Once there was a young boy. He was very lazy and reluctant to work and progress. His mindset was negative towards life.

One day someone told him to go and get some teaching from the great philosopher Socrates. The young boy found the way to reach Socrates. He asked Socrates how he could get wisdom, prosperity and success.

Socrates said, "Do you really want it and are you willing to devote yourself for that?"

The young boy replied, "I want to be successful in life and I can do anything for that." Then, Socrates told him, "Ok, you have to come to me tomorrow."

Next day, he took the young boy to a river, and ordered, "Go under the water and stand straight in the river, until I call you back." The boy followed the order of Socrates.

Then suddenly Socrates pushed the boy's head under the water with his full force, held it there until the boy was gasping for air, then relaxed and released his head. The boy was unconscious for some time.

When the boy regained his composure, Socrates asked him, "What did you desire the most when you were under water?"

"I desperately wanted air to breathe," said the boy.

Socrates said to him, "When you want wisdom, and success as much as you wanted air when you were immersed in the water, you will receive it."

The boy was astonished by Socrates' teaching, and now he knew that intense desire is the important key to become successful in life.

Moral :- If you want to attain something great in life, build the strong will and passion for that particular thing. Intense desire and powerful belief can change the impossible into possible.

28

Having A Best Friend

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of



the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand;

"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone;

"Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Moral :- Don't value the things you have in your life, but value who you have in your life.

29

The Four Students



One night four college students were out partying till late night and didn't study for the test which was scheduled for the next day. In the morning, they thought of a plan.

They made themselves look dirty with grease and dirt. Then they went to the Dean and said they had gone out to a wedding last night, on their way back the tyre of their car burst and they had to push the car all the way back. So they were in no condition to take the test.

The Dean thought for a minute and said they could have the re-test after 3 days. They thanked him and said they would be ready by that time.

On the third day, they appeared before the Dean. The Dean said that as this was a Special

Condition Test, all four were required to sit in separate classrooms for the test. They all agreed as they had prepared well in the last 3 days.

The Test consisted of only 2 questions with the total of 100 marks:

1)Your Name? _____ (1 mark)

2)Which tyre burst? _____ (99 marks)

Options – (a) Front Left (b) Front Right (c) Back Left (d) Back Right

Moral :- Never lie or you will learn your lesson.



30

An Entrepreneur

BEFORE : He had a troubled childhood – his parents separated, and his stepfather was physically abusive to his mother and siblings. His



mother was falsely convicted twice because of his stepfather's allegations. Because they had no one to take care of them, he, along with his siblings, had to stay in a foster home at the age of 8. His first marriage failed partly due to his choice of opting out of a medical career and because he cheated on his wife. Not only did he fail miserably at his job as a medical equipment salesman, but his girlfriend also deserted him due to his deteriorating financial conditions. Homeless, he stayed with his son at motels, parks, airports and once even in a public toilet. He toiled incessantly at a brokerage firm during the daytime, stood in long queues so as to sleep under a roof at night.

AFTER : After passing the licensing exam in 1982, he became a full-time employee of Dean Witter. He established his own brokerage firm Gardner Rich & Co. in 1987, in which he owns 75% of the stock. He sold a small stake in Gardener Rich in 2006 in a multi-million-dollar deal.

He is none other than Chris Gardner, the C.E.O and founder of Christopher Gardner

International Holdings – with offices in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. His life was portrayed in a Hollywood film – The Pursuit of Happiness – which not only went on to be a blockbuster, but was also loved by audiences worldwide.

Moral :- One has to face many ups and downs in life. Do not give up.



31

An Indian Hockey Player



He is an Indian professional field hockey player and an ex-captain of the Indian National Team. He made his international debut in January 2004 in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Kuala Lumpur. He took over as the captain of the Indian national team in January 2009. At a time when he

was at his peak, he was said to have the best speed in the world in drag flick (speed 145 km/h). On 22 August 2006, he was seriously injured after being hit by an accidental gunshot in Shatabadi train, while on his way to join the national team due to leave for the World Cup in Germany two days later. He was almost paralyzed and on a wheelchair for two years of his life.

Sandeep Singh Bhinder not only recovered from that serious injury, but also established himself again in the team.

Under his captaincy, the Indian team managed to clinch the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in 2009 after defeating Malaysia in the finals at Ipoh. India won the title after a long wait of 13 years. Singh was also the top goal scorer of the tournament.

The India men's national Hockey team had qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London after a gap of 8 years. The team had a resounding victory over France in the finals of the Olympic qualifiers by beating France 8–1. Ace drag-flicker Singh starred in the final against France by scoring

five goals – including a hat-trick – all from penalty corners (19th, 26th, 38th, 49th and 51st minutes). Singh was the highest scorer of the Olympic qualifiers tournament by scoring 16 goals.

He is regarded as one of the best drag flickers of the game.

Moral :- With courage and determination one can reach the peak of success.

32

Tolerance

It was one of the coldest winters and many animals were dying because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep each other warm. This was a great way to protect themselves from cold and keep each of them warm, but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.



After a while, they decided to distance themselves, but they began to die due to cold. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or choose death. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the closeness with their companions in order to receive the warmth of their togetherness. This way they were able to survive.

Moral :- Learn to tolerate the small inconveniences and troubles in order to maintain your relations which give you love, support and security.



33

The Cheater Is Always Afraid Of Being Cheated

A boy and a girl were playing together.

The boy had a collection of beautiful marbles. The girl had some candies with her. The boy offered to



give the girl all his marbles in exchange for all her candies. The girl agreed. The boy gave all the marbles to the girl, but secretly kept the biggest and the most beautiful marble for himself. The girl gave him all her candies as she had promised. That night, the girl slept peacefully. But the boy couldn't sleep as he kept wondering if the girl had hidden some more tasty candies from him the way he had hidden his best marble.

Moral :- If you don't give your hundred percent in a relationship, you'll always keep doubting if the other person has given his/her hundred percent.



34

The World Is A Mirror

Once a dog ran into a museum filled with mirrors. The museum was very unique, the

walls, the ceiling, the doors and even the floors were made of mirrors. Seeing his reflections, the dog froze in surprise in the middle of the hall. He could see a whole pack of dogs surrounding him from all sides, from above and below.

The dog bared his teeth and barked at all the reflections which responded to it in the same way. Frightened, the dog barked frantically, the dog's reflections imitated the dog, increasing it by many times. The dog barked even harder, but the echo was magnified. The dog, tossed from one side to another while his reflections also tossed around snapping their teeth.

Next morning, the museum security guards found the miserable, lifeless dog, surrounded by thousands of reflections of the lifeless dog. There was nobody to harm the dog. The dog died fighting with his own reflections.

Moral :- The world is a mirror. What you see in others exists in you. Everything that is happening around you is the reflection of your own thoughts, feelings, wishes and actions.



35

Stopped By A Brick

A successful young executive was riding his brand new Jaguar down a neighbourhood street when he noticed a kid darting out from between parked cars. He slowed down a little but as he appeared near it, a brick smashed into his car's door. He slammed on the brakes and drove back to the place where the brick had been thrown.

The furious man jumped out of his car and caught the nearest kid shouting, "What was that all about? What the heck did you do to my car? Why did you do it?" The young boy was a little scared, but was very polite and apologetic. "I am sorry Mister. I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded, "I had to throw the brick because no one else would stop for my call to help." With tears rolling down his cheeks, he pointed towards the parked cars and

said, "It's my brother, he rolled off the kerb and fell off his wheelchair. He is badly hurt. I can't lift him up."

The sobbing boy asked the man, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He is hurt and he is too heavy for me." The young man was moved beyond words and tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the other kid from the spot and put him back to the wheelchair. He also helped the little kid with his bruises and cuts.

When he thought that everything will be okay, he went back to his car. "Thank you, Sir and God bless you," said the grateful kid. The young man was too shaken up for any word, so the man simply watched the little boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk. It was a long and slow ride back home for the man. When he got out of the car, he looked at his dented car door. The damage was very noticeable, but he did not bother to repair it. He kept the dent to remind him of the message, "Do not go through life so fast that

someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention."

Moral :- Life whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we do not listen to it, it throws a brick at us. It is our choice, listen to the whisper or wait for the brick.



36

The Disinterested Carpenter

A carpenter, with years of experience, told his contractor about his plans to leave the house building business to live a more leisurely retired life with his family. The contractor felt a little upset that his good and experienced carpenter was leaving the job, but he requested the carpenter to build just one more house for him.



The carpenter agreed but his heart was not in his work like it used to be. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials for building the last house of his career. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter completed the house, his employer came to inspect the house. He looked around the house and just before he exited the house he handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you." This was a huge surprise for the carpenter. Although it was supposed to be a good surprise, he wasn't feeling good as he was deeply ashamed. If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in a home that wasn't built that well.

Moral :- Be it for yourself or others do your work in the best way possible. Keep the same attitude towards your life as well. Live your life in the best way possible.



37

We Can Only Give What We Have



A wise and successful man bought a beautiful house with a huge orchard. An envious neighbour constantly tried to make his stay in the beautiful house as miserable as possible. He regularly threw garbage outside his house. The wise man would silently collect the garbage and dispose it.

One day, the wise man carried a bucket and knocked at his envious neighbour's door. The envious neighbour gleefully thought, "I finally got him!" He answered the door, ready to quarrel with his successful neighbour. However, the wise man presented him with a bucket of freshly picked apples saying, "One shares with others only what one has an abundance of."

Moral :- What you give others is a reflection of what you are.



38

A Lesson In Giving

A little three-year-old girl, who was suffering from a disease, required blood transfusion. The little girl was being given the blood of her five-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease. The boy had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness and was the only hope for his sister.

When the doctor had explained the situation to the little brother, and asked if the boy would be willing to give his blood to his sister, he hesitated only for a moment before he took a deep breath and said, "Yes, I will do it if it will save my sister."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, seeing the colour returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale

and his smile faded. He looked up at the nurse beside him and asked with a trembling voice, "When will I start to die?" The young boy had misunderstood the doctor and thought he had to die to save his sick sister.

Moral :- There are some who are willing to sacrifice their life to save their family and there are some who are willing to destroy their family for wealth and property. Which category do you belong to?



39

Time Is Money

Imagine you had a bank account in which Rs. 86,400 are deposited each morning. The account carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every

evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every rupee each day!

We all have such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever time you have failed to use wisely. It carries over no balance from day to day. It allows no overdraft so you can't borrow against yourself or use more time than you have. Each day, the account starts fresh. Each night, it destroys unused time. If you fail to use the day's deposit, it's your loss and you can't appeal to get it back.

Time management is in your hands. If you do something unproductive, you are just spending your time just as you spend money on wasteful things. However, if you do something productive and useful, you are investing your time, just as you invest money so that it grows. It's for you to decide – whether you would spend your time or invest your time.

Moral :- Value your time. Manage it well.



40

This Little Girl Will Surprise You the Way She Surprised Her Father

A father was reading his favourite magazine and his little daughter was every now and then distracting him. Trying to keep his daughter busy, he tore out one page on which world map was printed. He then tore it into pieces and asked her to go to her room and put them together to make the map again.

Having done this, the father was now convinced he would be able to read his magazine without any disturbance, thinking that it would take his daughter the whole day to get it done.

But the little one came back within two minutes with the perfect map. The curious and surprised father asked his daughter how she had done it so quickly.

She giggled and said, "Oh...Dad, Mahatma Gandhi's face is printed on the other side of the paper, I just put his face together to get the map right." She ran outside to play, leaving her father surprised.

Moral :- In life there is always another side to whatever you experience. Whenever you come across a challenge or a puzzling situation, look at the other side, you will be surprised to find an easy way to tackle the problem.



41

The Race of Life, Do We Actually Win?

I was cycling and noticed a person about $\frac{1}{4}$ km in front of me. I could tell he was cycling a little slower than me and decided to try to catch up with him. I had about a km to go on the road before turning off.

So I started cycling faster and faster and every block, I was gaining on him just a little bit. After just a few minutes I was only about 100 yards behind him, so I really picked up the pace and pushed myself. You would have thought I was cycling in the last leg of London Olympic triathlon.

Finally, I caught up with him and overtook him. On the inside I felt so good. "I beat him." Of course, he didn't even know we were racing.

After I passed him, I realized that I had been so focused on competing against him that I had missed my turn, had gone nearly six blocks past it and had to turn around and go all the way back.

Isn't that what happens in life when we focus on competing with co-workers, neighbours, friends, family, trying to outdo them or trying to prove that we are more successful or more important? We spend our time and energy running after them and we miss out on our own paths to our destinies.

Moral :- The problem with unhealthy competition is that it's a never ending cycle. There will always be somebody ahead of you, someone

with better job, nicer car, more money in the bank, more education, a prettier wife, a more handsome husband, better behaved children, etc.

Take what Life has given you, the height, weight & personality. Dress well & wear it proudly! You'll be blessed by it. Stay focused and live a healthy life. There's no competition in DESTINY. Run your own RACE and wish others WELL!!!



42

Hundred Gold Coins and Birbal

The wisdom of Birbal was unparalleled during the reign of Emperor Akbar. But Akbar's brother-in-law was extremely jealous of him. He asked the Emperor to dispense with Birbal's services and appoint him in his place. He gave ample assurance that he would prove to be more efficient and capable than Birbal.

Before Akbar could take a decision in this matter, this news reached Birbal. Birbal resigned and left. Akbar's brother-in-law was made the minister in place of Birbal. Akbar decided to test the new minister. He gave three hundred gold coins to him and said, "Spend these gold coins such that, I get a hundred gold coins here in this life, a hundred gold coins in the other world and another hundred gold coins neither here nor there."

The minister found the entire situation to be a maze of confusion and hopelessness. He spent sleepless nights worrying how he would get himself out of this mess. Thinking in circles was making him go crazy. Eventually, on the advice of his wife he sought Birbal's help. Birbal said, "Just give me the gold coins. I shall handle the rest."

Birbal walked in the streets of the city holding the bag of gold coins in his hand. He noticed a rich merchant celebrating his son's wedding. Birbal gave a hundred gold coins to him and bowed courteously saying, "Emperor Akbar sends you his good wishes and blessings for the wedding of your son. Please

accept the gift he has sent." The merchant felt honoured that the king had sent a special messenger with such a precious gift. He honoured Birbal and gave him a large number of expensive gifts and a bag of gold coins as a return gift for the king.

Next, Birbal went to the area of the city where the poor people lived. There he bought food and clothing in exchange for a hundred gold coins and distributed them in the name of the Emperor.

When he came back to town he organized a concert of music and dance. He spent a hundred gold coins on it.

The next day Birbal entered Akbar's *darbar* and announced that he had done all that the king had asked his brother-in-law to do. The Emperor wanted to know how he had done it. Birbal repeated the sequences of all the events and then said, "The money I gave to the merchant for the wedding of his son – you have got back while on this earth. The money I spent on buying food and clothing for the poor – you will get it in the other

world. The money I spent on the musical concert – you will get neither here nor there.” Akbar's brother-in-law understood his mistake and resigned. Birbal got his place back.

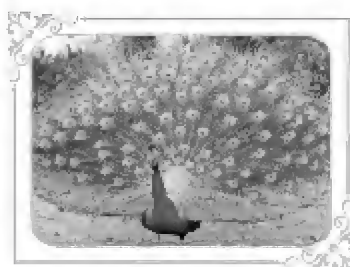
Moral :- The cloud can hide the sun and its light only for a short time. Jealousy does not pay.

43

Tenali Rama and the Red Peacock

King Sri Krishna-devaraya was very fond of collecting rare objects. One day, a courtier had an idea. He asked a painter to colour a peacock red. The painter did his job so well that the peacock really looked naturally red.

The courtier took the peacock to the king's chamber and presenting it to him, said, “Sir, this is the rarest red peacock available only in the dense



forest. I have spent a large amount on it, so that you can add this rare bird to your precious collection." The king was surprised and observed the peacock.

He was confused. But the peacock looked naturally red so the king said "Yes, it is the rarest peacock. I am glad to have it." The king gave a 1000 gold coins for the red peacock.

Tenali Rama was present when that peacock was presented to the king. While the king was talking to the courtier, he caught a faint smell of paint. Tenali Rama left the court and asked his servant to bring the best painter of the town. Tenali Rama asked him to paint five peacocks with red paint.

Next day, Tenali Rama took the painter and the five peacocks with him to the court. Tenali Rama said, "Sir, yesterday you received one red peacock, I have five more peacocks today. And while you gave a thousand gold coins for one I am ready to sell five for only 1000 gold coins."

The king again found them naturally red. And the king gave an order to Tenali Rama "You can take

1000 gold coins from the royal treasury". On hearing this Tenali Rama said, "Sir you should give the award to this painter as he painted the peacocks so beautifully as to make them look naturally red."

The king asked "Are they not naturally red?" "No, you go close and smell them and you will get the faint smell of paint," said Tenali Rama. The king did so and awarded the painter handsomely. But that courtier was punished.

Moral :- Use your common sense. If something is against the laws of nature, check properly before believing.



44

A Tale of Two Pebbles

Many years ago in a small Indian village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a

large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, who was old and ugly, fancied the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter.

Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So, the cunning moneylender suggested that they let Providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag. If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven. If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven. If she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble-strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked

them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag.

The girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately got lost among all the other pebbles.

“Oh, how clumsy of me!” she said. “But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked.”

The moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty and the girl walked away with pride relieving her father of his debt. The girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

Moral :- Most Problems have simple Solutions. We just need to think differently.



45

The Right Teaching



Once, there was a renowned monk who lived in a beautiful monastery with many of his pupils. His teachings were known to be very effective and many of his students grew up to become great masters themselves.

One day, one of them was caught stealing from his fellow-students and they reported him to the monk. But he took no action against the boy.

A few days later the same boy was again caught stealing. And again the head monk did nothing to punish him.

This angered the other students who drew up a petition asking for the dismissal of the thief. They threatened to leave en masse if the boy was allowed to stay in the monastery.

The teacher called a meeting of the students. When they had assembled, he said to them, "You are good boys who know what is right and what is wrong. If you leave, you will have no trouble in joining some other school. But what about your brother who does not even know the difference between right and wrong? Who will teach him if I don't? No, I cannot ask him to go even if it means losing all of you."

Tears coursed down the cheeks of the boy who had stolen. He never stole again and in later life became renowned for his integrity.

Moral :- A person can be transformed by showing love and patience.



46

Keep One Candle Burning

Four candles
were burning in a

room and there was enough light in the room because the candles were all burning together. The candles started conversing.

The first candle said, "I am Peace. No one cares for me. Everyone talks about wanting me but no one attempts to get me. I feel I will not be able to stay alight any longer." The first candle got extinguished while speaking.

The second candle expressed her pain, "I am Love. People have made my survival impossible. They have brought me disrepute. I feel sad that they have adulterated me with their selfishness. People strangle my throat for their selfish interests without any guilty conscience. I think people do not need me any more." The second candle also extinguished after speaking this much.

The third candle lamented, "I am Trust. Once upon a time I used to be very important but now I am being betrayed. I have lost my place even in the most fragile relationship of a husband and a

wife. Where should I go? I have aged prematurely. I am counting my last breath." The third candle started weeping uncontrollably and got extinguished by her own tears.

Suddenly, the door of the room opened and a small boy entered. He felt sad when he saw the extinguished candles. He complained, "You have done injustice to a child. You finished yourselves before my arrival. You should have remained alit for me."

The fourth candle heard the child and said, "Son, do not worry. I am still here. Let us both together light up these three candles again." The boy asked in a surprised voice, "Who are you?"

The fourth candle replied, "Son, I am Hope."

Moral :- As long as hope is alive, peace, love and trust will also remain alive.



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